



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office  
2400 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan  
608-242-3050  
Cell: 608-516-1777

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Homeland Defense Update

## **More than 7,200 National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin**

The return to Wisconsin of 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry last week raises the number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen available to provide effective military capability on short notice to more than 7,200.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, about 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,600-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are about 2,200 serving on active duty for federal missions. Of those, about 980 are currently deployed overseas, another 1,020 are bound for overseas service within the next two weeks, and 80 more will eventually deploy overseas following post-mobilization training. The Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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